

École Herbert Spencer Code of Conduct

The Ministry of Education requires schools to formally provide the school Codes of Conduct. As you probably know, from your child, our Code of Conduct is built on the principles of respect, responsibility and relationships. The children know them as the '3 R's' and are able to articulate quite well what they represent – they begin to learn and discuss them in Kindergarten! These principles guide our actions and our words and provide a 'road map' for us to rely on. Our Code of Conduct supports the continued development of our goal to be socially responsible. It creates the opportunity to discuss where we've gone wrong and is a framework to consider how we can make things 'right'. We would request that you discuss this Code of Conduct with your child and appreciate your participation in supporting these important expectations! Herbert Spencer will promote the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law, prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, age, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

Showing Respect is:

- Using appropriate language and tone with peers and adults
- Respecting the environment, property of others, and personal space
- Listening to and honouring the opinions and feelings of others and their culture
- Respect for learning, good listening, moving quietly through the halls
- Using good manners, being polite, "please... may I... thank you"

You are not respectful when:

- you use offensive language, talk back, tease or say hurtful things.
- you push, hit, kick or do hurtful things.
- you litter, damage property or do harm to the school environment.
- you interrupt, call out or disrupt the learning environment of yourself and others.

Showing Responsibility is:

- Being honest and owning up to your mistakes
- Coming to school ready to learn, staying on task and doing your best
- Looking after your belongings including agendas, notices and homework
- Looking after school property including library books, chromebooks and gym materials
- Appropriate use of washrooms
- Being a good role model for others by demonstrating our 3 R's

You are not demonstrating responsibility when:

- you are dishonest
- you disrupt the learning environment of others
- you damage or misuse school property
- you forget or lose your materials, homework and assignments

Behaviours which support Relationships:

- Active listening
- Empathy, thoughtfulness and kindness
- Including others and sharing
- Patience, Honesty and Cooperation

Students may not:

make hurtful comments or do hurtful things
humiliate, intimidate, or exclude others, tease or joke in a hurtful manner
engage in physically aggressive behavior

Consequences:

Responses to, and consequences for, unacceptable conduct will be consistent and just. Wherever possible, disciplinary action will be restorative and include logical consequences. We will take into consideration the circumstances and severity of the misconduct and the students' ability to meet behavioural expectations. The following steps may guide the process:

Verbal warning, change or removal from the environment,
communication from the teacher, communication from the
administration.

Use of Personal Digital Devices:

As per Ministerial Order 89 the use of personal digital devices at school is to be restricted for educational purposes, to promote online safety and focused learning environments. Personal digital device (PDD) means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone or a tablet. Other examples included: smart watches, digital accessories (earbuds), gaming devices, and electronic toys.

At our elementary school there is no access to or use of such devices at any time on school campus during the school day. This is essentially a “bell-to-bell” restriction from the beginning of school to the end of the day. Parents are reminded that elementary students are always under direct supervision and that the school will communicate with home for any emergent need that arises.

The exception to these restrictions will be for students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), Learning Support Plan (LSP), or medical or health issue that specifically outlines the need for these devices for full inclusion in specific learning activities.

Security & Storage:

It is important to note that security and storage of personal digital devices is the sole responsibility of the owner/user. The district assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair, or replacement of such devices. If students must bring a device to school, they are encouraged to ensure they are locked away in lockers or kept in a secure location.